Chapter

30

Higasa Akai

THE ROYAL TUTOR

Chapter 30

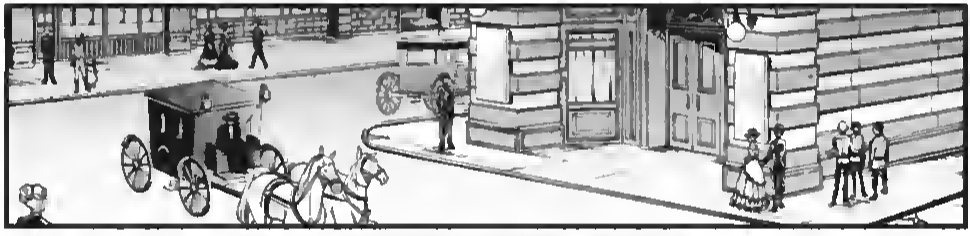
My Teacher, The Stranger

I'VE FOUND OUT...
...WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
WHY DON'T YOU AND I HAVE A LITTLE CHAT, HMM?
IN PRINCE EINS'S CASTLE.
RUSTLE
ハア！

I AM AFRAID I MUST DECLINE.
BOOOM
SHFF
NOW, NOW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
THE MATTER WITH PRINCE KAI HAVING CONSUMED MUCH OF MY TIME, I MUST NOW SEE TO MY PREPARATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S LESSONS.
FORGIVE ME, BUT I MUST BE ON MY WAY...

!!
WHISK
WHISKING ME OFF MY FEET...!?
NOW, SEE HERE, I HAVE MUCH TO WHICH I MUST ATTEND!
HMPH!
NO NEED TO BE SO GUARDED. IT IS NOT AS THOUGH I AM AN ABDUCTOR.
FLAIL
FLAIL
ARE YOU NOT ABDUCTING ME AT THIS VERY MOMENT?
HEH-HEH. PLEASE RELAX.
ちょこんっ
PLOP

I'LL SEE YOU BACK TO THE PALACE.
WE CAN TALK HERE, INSIDE THE CARRIAGE.



...I'VE WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW.
YOU SEE, I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM A COUSIN OF MINE WHOM I SEE ON OCCASION.
A COUSIN?
?

.....
RATTLE
ガラガラ

THE WAY THEY CARRY THEMSELVES COULD NOT BE MORE DIFFERENT, BUT THERE IS INDEED A SLIGHT SIMILARITY IN THEIR COUNTENANCES...
YES, MY COUSIN MAXIMILIAN IS A PALACE GUARD. THERE IS A TOUCH OF A RESEMBLANCE, IS THERE NOT?
IN THAT ...?
EH HEH HEH!
WHY, GOOD DAY PROFESSOR!
IN THAT WE ARE BOTH SO BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL.
.....
AS SUCH, I FOUND MYSELF EXCEEDINGLY INTERESTED IN WHAT SORT OF MAN YOU MIGHT BE.
YOU ARE THE FIRST ROYAL TUTOR TO WHOM THE PRINCES HAVE TAKEN.
HE TELLS ME THAT HE FINDS YOUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCES MOST CHARMING.

HAVE YOU EVER MET A BOY BY THE NAME OF RALF VON FUCHS?
I TOO HAVE BEEN HOPING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LONG TALK WITH YOU.
...RALF?
HE WAS THE INSTIGATOR IN THE SCANDAL INVOLVING PRINCE KAI.
IT SEEMS HE'D HEARD RUMORS CONDEMNING THE ROYAL FAMILY FROM AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS PARENTS...
...AND HE MENTIONED THIS AS A CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS?
.....

HEH HEH.
YET THE MANNER OF YOUR ADDRESS SEEMS... HOSTILE.
NO, I DO NOT MEAN TO IMPLY ANYTHING.
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
GOOD HEAVENS, PROFESSOR.
BUT I HAVE NEVER MET THIS HERR RALF MYSELF.
I SUPPOSE THEY COULD BE RELATIVES.
I DO HAVE A CLOSE FRIEND BY THE NAME OF ADAM VON FUCHS.
EVERYONE AGREES THAT HE DESERVES TO BE NEXT IN LINE FOR THE CROWN.
NOT ONLY IS PRINCE EINS THE ELDEST, HIS HIGHNESS IS ACCOMPLISHED BOTH IN ACADEMICS AND IN MILITARY KNOWLEDGE.
TRUE, THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO SABOTAGE THE OTHERS...
...TO PREVENT THEM FROM SUCCEEDING THE THRONE, THEN YOU WOULD BE OFF THE MARK.
IF YOU SUSPECT THAT I AM SABOTAGING THE YOUNGER PRINCES...

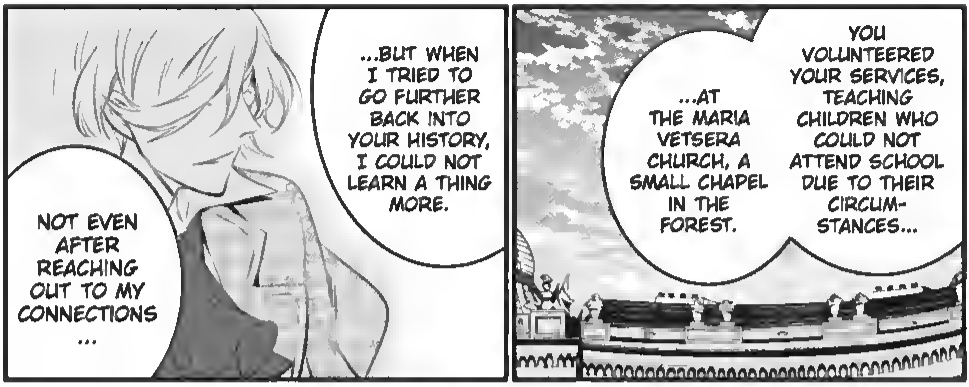
IT WAS HE WHO INFORMED THE KING OF PRINCE LICHT'S JOB AT THE CAFÉ.
SO TOO WAS IT HE WHO PROVIDED THE IMPETUS FOR DOCTOR DMITRI TO INVITE PRINCE BRUNO TO LEAVE THE KINGDOM AND BECOME A SCHOLAR.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, COUNT ROSENBERG HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT PRESENCE LURKING BEHIND THE PRINCES' TROUBLES.
...COULD THIS BE MERE COINCIDENCE?
.....
SMILE
AS THEY SAY, TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
WE REALLY MUST FINISH THIS CHAT ANOTHER TIME.
AHH.
THERE'S THE PALACE NOW.

LEONIE, DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT CARRIAGE MAY BE TEACH RETURNING?
RATTLE
RATTLE
AH!
HEE HEE HEE!
SO YOU'RE FINALLY BACK, HEINE!
I FINISHED TODAY'S HOMEWORK FLAWLESSLY— I JUST KNOW IT!
ASTONISHING! YOU ARE INDEED A GENIUS!!
I CAN ALREADY SEE HIM PROSTRATING HIMSELF BEFORE ME!

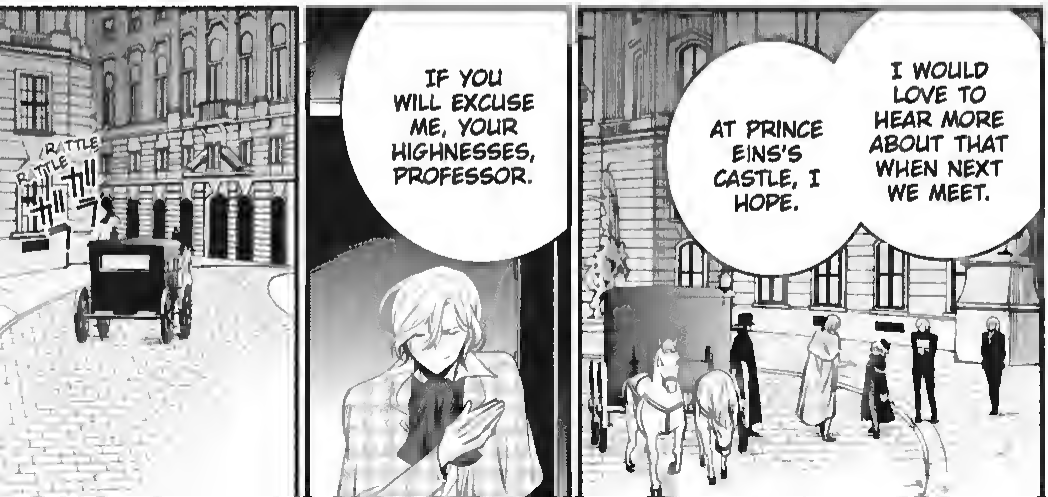
I-I WOULD NEVER WANT HIS PRAISE...!
...I HOPE YOU GET THE PRAISE YOU'RE AFTER!
SINCE YOU'RE TURNING IN TODAY WHAT YOU COULD TURN IN TOMOR-ROW...
HEH HEH!
REALLY, NOW, THAT'S NO REASON TO WAIT OUTSIDE FOR SO LONG.
LISTEN TO THIS, TEACH! LEONIE HERE WANTS TO—
GAH, I'M TELLING YOU, I DON'T...!
WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT HERE?
OH MY. YOUR HIGH-NESSES?
AH, PROFESSOR HEINE, I ALMOST FORGOT...
...TO ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

IT SEEMS THAT BEFORE YOU CAME TO THE PALACE...
...YOU TAUGHT CHILDREN IN A CHURCH, IS THAT CORRECT?

.....


NOT EVEN AFTER REACHING OUT TO MY CONNECTIONS ...
...BUT WHEN I TRIED TO GO FURTHER BACK INTO YOUR HISTORY, I COULD NOT LEARN A THING MORE.
...AT THE MARIA VETSERA CHURCH, A SMALL CHAPEL IN THE FOREST.
YOU VOLUNTEERED YOUR SERVICES, TEACHING CHILDREN WHO COULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL DUE TO THEIR CIRCUM-STANCES...

THIS BRINGS ME TO ONE CONCLUSION... YOU ARE NOT ONE OF US, ARE YOU?


RATTLE
RATTLE
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, YOUR HIGHNESSES, PROFESSOR.
AT PRINCE EINS'S CASTLE, I HOPE.
I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT WHEN NEXT WE MEET.

SO THE COUNT HAS BEEN POKING INTO HEINE'S PAST TOO...?
...
I COULDN'T DIG UP ANYTHING WHEN I TRIED LOOKING INTO IT.
.....
SHALL WE GO INSIDE, YOUR HIGH-NESSES?
DINNER-TIME DRAWS NEAR.
Y-YEAH.
AND WHAT DID THE COUNT MEAN BY HE'S "NOT ONE OF US"...? TEACH...WHO THE DEVIL IS HE?
BUT TO THINK THAT EVEN AN ADULT WITH SOCIAL STANDING AND CONNECTIONS WOULD COME UP BLANK...
L-LICHT...
...WHAT ARE WE TO DO...?
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO SHOW HIM YOUR HOME-WORK?
OH WAIT, YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE TEACH.

...HEINE... HE...
HE'S HAD STUDENTS OTHER THAN US...!
SQUEEZE
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, LEONIE?
BUT WE'RE HIS ONLY STUDENTS NOW, AREN'T WE?
WELL, YEAH. I MEAN, HE'S A TEACHER.
...

I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS CONCERNING THE COUNT...
...BUT ALLOWING THEM TO CONSUME MY THOUGHTS WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.
NOW, I MUST PREPARE FOR TOMORROW'S LESSONS.
STAAARE
.....

UWAH!
FLINCH
PEEPING AROUND CORNERS, ARE WE?
HOW MAY I HELP YOU, PRINCE LEONHARD?
PANIC PANIC
あわ
HOW RUDE. I MERELY CIRCLED AROUND BEHIND YOU.
WH-WHERE DID YOU POP OUT FROM!?
HARRUMPH!
BADUM BADUM
...NH!
I COMMEND YOUR ENTHUSIASM. I CAN TAKE IT NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE.
FLINCH
MY, IS THAT YOUR HOMEWORK? HAVE YOU ALREADY COMPLETED YOUR ASSIGNMENTS FOR TOMORROW?
?
...NO. I'M NOT SHOWING YOU MY HOMEWORK.

I-IN FACT...
...I'M NOT LETTING YOU TEACH ME ANY LONGER.
I'M NOT ...
...A STUDENT OF ANY SPECIAL IMPOR-TANCE TO YOU ANYWAY!
NGH.....
WHAT...?

PRINCE LEONHARD, PLEASE WAIT!
!
DASH
DAM-MIT!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD COMPELS YOU TO SAY THAT?
I IMPLORE YOU TO TELL ME!
SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
...KH...!
HE'S GETTING FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY. NO SURPRISE.
WHEN IT COMES TO PURE SPEED, I DOUBT I CAN CATCH UP TO PRINCE LEONHARD.

WHIRL
STAAARE
STAAARE
IS HE CHASING AFTER ME? IS HE?

TAKA TAK!
SHWOOP
ZOOM
STAAARE
IS HE CHASING AFTER ME? IS HE?
PWOP
AHEM... YOUR HIGH-NESS ...
...PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU WOULD VEEERY MUCH LIKE TO SAY TO ME...?
IRK
IRK
IRK
IRK
WHAT !!?

WELL, YOU'RE WRONG! I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU!
HMPH! SO THERE!
NO? VERY WELL.
EVERY-THING.
WHAT ABOUT THIS FACE MAKES YOU THINK THAT!?
FIDGET
FIDGET
SLIDE
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO SAY IT, PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE INCLINED TO WRITE IT?
AH. SO HE WILL WRITE IT.
HOW OBEDIENT..
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
.....
...I WILL TAKE THAT, THANK YOU.
SLIIIIIDE

.....
AHEM...
.....
FLAP
"WHO IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU, ME OR YOUR FORMER PUPILS?"
GAAAH!! UWAAH!!!
DON'T READ IT ALOUD!!
EEEE!
YOU'VE ALREADY WRITTEN IT DOWN FOR ME. YOU SHOULDN'T BE EMBARRASSED.
DANGLE
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
...NH...!
...GH!

...AH, THAT.
YOU HEARD?
FIDGET もじもじ
FIDGET もじもじ
ERM... WELL... EARLIER, BY THE GATES...
...HE SAID YOU USED TO TEACH AT A CHURCH...?
BUT... BUT...
NO!!
N—
HRMPH!
MY WORD. ARE YOU JEALOUS OF MY FORMER STUDENTS?
BUT...
...YOU DIDN'T TEACH YOUR FORMER STUDENTS...
...BECAUSE YOU WERE BEING PAID TO DO SO, DID YOU...!?

DOESN'T IT FOLLOW THAT YOUR OLD STUDENTS MEANT MORE TO YOU THAN WE DO!?
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO VOLUNTEER, RIGHT?
BUT WITH US, IT'S A JOB FOR WHICH YOU RECEIVE PAYMENT...
HUFF! HUFF!

EH?
...BUT THE CHURCH DID PROVIDE MEALS FOR THE DAY AS A GIFT OF THANKS.
STRICTLY SPEAKING, I DID NOT RECEIVE ANY MONEY FOR MY LESSONS, NO...

.....

HAAH...

I DO NOT DENY THAT I AM BEING COMPENSATED IN THIS POST.
HOWEVER, I WOULD HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I AM A TEACHER...
...BECAUSE NOTHING PLEASES ME MORE THAN TO SEE MY STUDENTS GROW.

ALL OF THE STUDENTS I HAVE TAUGHT ARE PRECIOUS TO ME.
NATURALLY, THAT INCLUDES YOUR HIGHNESS.
.....
HMPH!
OH REALLY... SO WE'RE ALLLL PRECIOUS TO YOU... IS THAT SO ...?
HMPH. WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE AND ONLY ROYAL TUTOR...
...I EVER DECIDED I WOULDN'T MIND LEARNING FROM...
MUTTER MUTTER
.....
...YOU ARE A RATHER SPECIAL STUDENT TO ME, YOUR HIGHNESS...
はわぁ
BLUSH
I AM!?

SHOCK
...BECAUSE NEVER BEFORE HAVE I TAUGHT A STUDENT WITH SO LITTLE TALENT FOR STUDYING.

STOP RIGHT THERE, YOUNG PRINCE.
I SHAN'T ALLOW YOU TO RUN FROM ME TWICE.
GRAB
WAAAAH!
HEINE, YOU MEANIIIE !!!

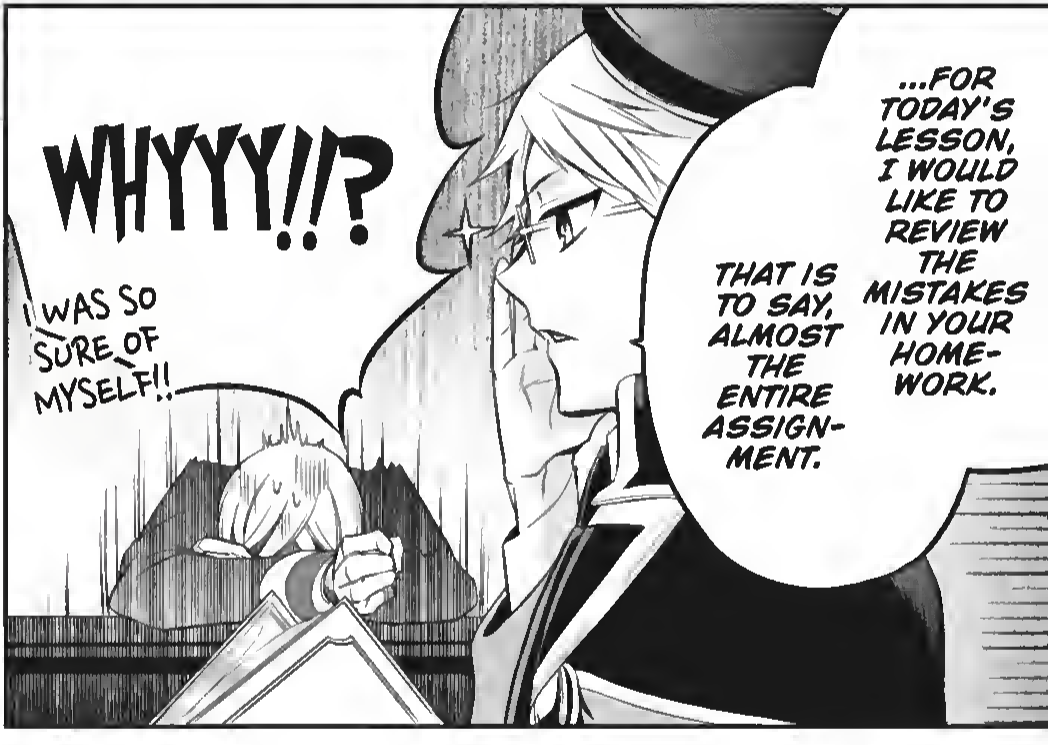
I HAVE NEVER HAD A STUDENT LIKE YOU BEFORE... AND THAT IS WHY...
PAT
...I FIND YOU TO BE AN ESPECIALLY WORTHY STUDENT.

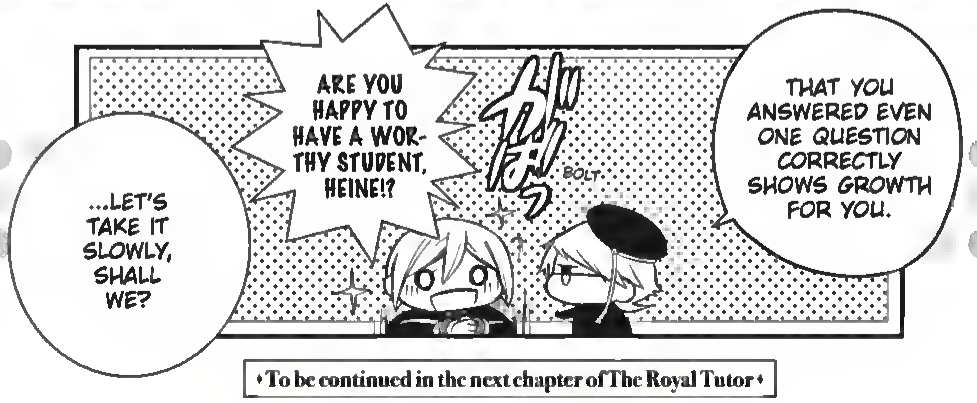
HAVING THE CHANCE TO MEET A STUDENT LIKE YOU...
...IS PART OF WHAT MAKES ME SO GLAD THAT I ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF ROYAL TUTOR.

...IS...
IS THAT RIGHT ...?
HEH HEH.
GRIN
GRIN
.....
HOW HOPELESS. FINE, THEN, IF YOU INSIST ...
...I WON'T NOT GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO TUTOR ME!
BABOOM
WHY THE HAUGHTINESS?
GOODNESS GRACIOUS... HE REWARDS MY CONCERN WITH THIS INSOLENCE...
YES, YES.
GIDDY
GIDDY
HERE YOU ARE! YOU SHOULD LOOK OVER MY HOMEWORK AT ONCE!

GIDDY
わくわく
GIDDY
わくわく
?
NO MATTER WHAT SABOTAGE AWAITS, I SHALL PROTECT THEM.
IT IS MY ROLE TO GROOM THE PRINCES INTO FINE CANDIDATES FOR THE CROWN.
THIS, I SWEAR, AS THE ROYAL TUTOR...
AS YOU HAVE PUT IN THE EFFORT TO SUBMIT YOUR HOMEWORK EARLY...
...SHALL WE INCORPORATE YOUR MISTAKES INTO TOMORROW'S LESSON?
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH. TOO BAD FOR YOU, HEINE.

GO AHEAD! DELIGHT IN THE GROWTH OF YOUR STUDENT!!
HONESTLY, WHY MUST HE BE SO HAUGHTY?
FLAP
I CAN MULTIPLY AND DIVIDE TWO- AND THREE-DIGIT NUMBERS.
FIDGET
A-ACTUALLY, I'M QUITE PROUD OF MY WORK THIS TIME!
WHY, I THINK YOU'LL FIND NO MISTAKES AT ALL! HA-HA!
FIDGET
FIDGET
I HAVE UNFORTU-NATE NEWS FOR YOU.
EH?
I KNOW, I KNOW!
MM-HM, MM-HM
...YOUR HIGH-NESS... ...HOW SHALL I SAY IT...? YOU NEVER BETRAY MY EXPECTATIONS.
EH HEH!


WHYYY!!?
I WAS SO SURE OF MYSELF!!
THAT IS TO SAY, ALMOST THE ENTIRE ASSIGN-MENT.
...FOR TODAY'S LESSON, I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE MISTAKES IN YOUR HOME-WORK.


...LET'S TAKE IT SLOWLY, SHALL WE?
ARE YOU HAPPY TO HAVE A WOR-THY STUDENT, HEINE!?
BOLT
THAT YOU ANSWERED EVEN ONE QUESTION CORRECTLY SHOWS GROWTH FOR YOU.

To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 30

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